KAMI TO YOBARETA KYUUKETSUKI

Chapter 14 「A Little White Lie」

A hundred years has passed since he moved into this country from a faraway land

Vlad, a vampire that became one of the land gods in Japan, grants people's wishes in order to connect the feelings from one person to another, and at times from person to yokai...

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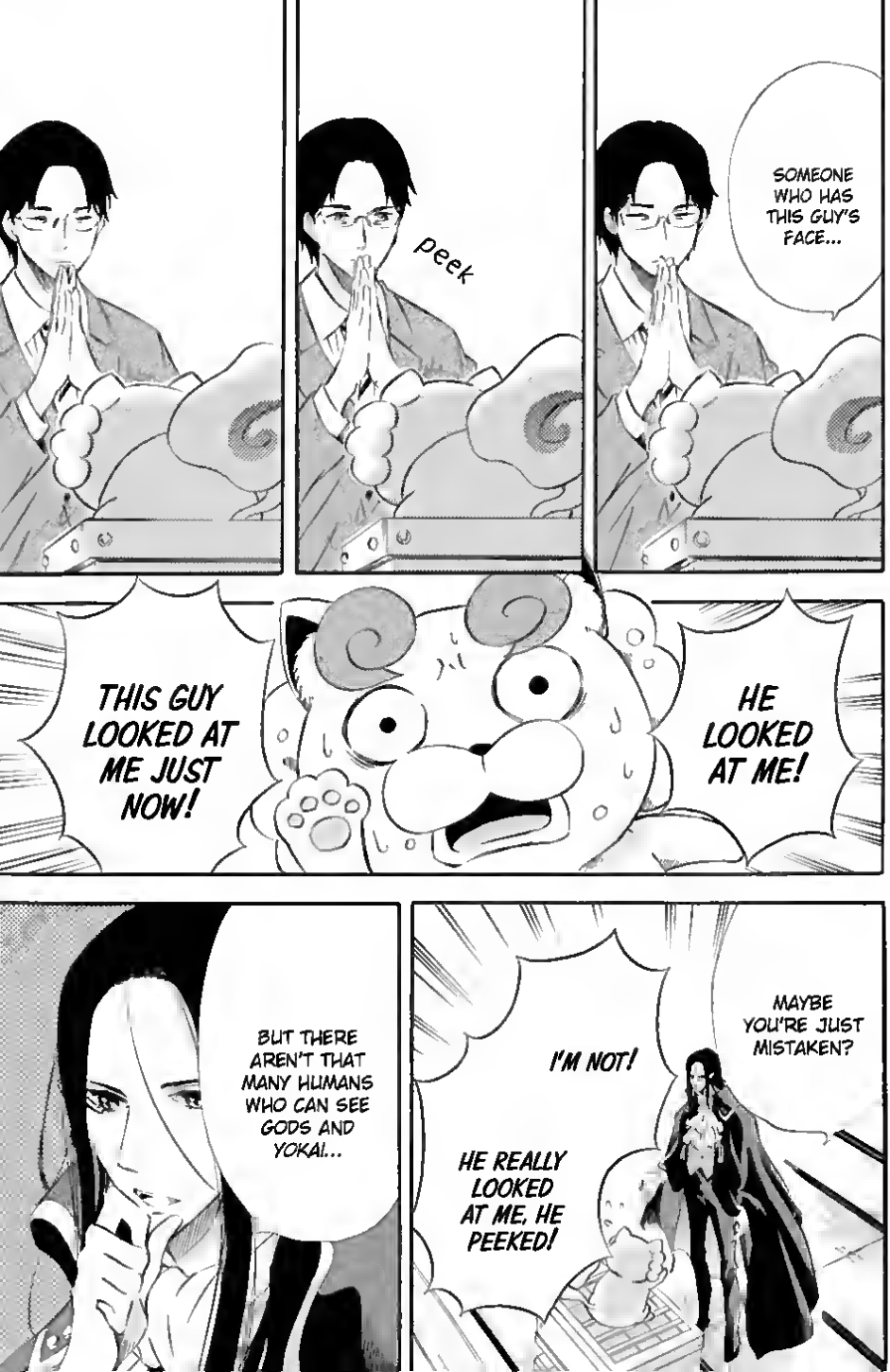
The complete series is now available in six volumes (^_^)

SOICHI, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO?
sob
sob
MM
THEN I'LL GO FOR YOU!
I'LL BE OKAY WHEREVER I GO!
YOU CAN'T, THEY'LL FIND OUT
DON'T WORRY!

Chapter 14: A Little White Lie

IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE WE WERE GONE FROM HERE, BUT IT SURE FEELS LIKE IT
Vlad-sama~
THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE LIKE HOME~
relax~
sigh
YOU'RE RIGHT
OH, HIM...
I'm not a goldfish
THIS IS RYUKI, THE LORD OF THE RIVER.
HM? WHAT'S WITH THAT GOLDFISH?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
WHY, AZUKI, ARE YOU LONELY?
IS IT REALLY OKAY?
ABOUT LEAVING UNZUKI BEHIND...
HEY, VLAD.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
YEAH... I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO KNOW THAT HE'S ALIVE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEFORE.
WHO'S THAT MIDDLE-AGED GUY?
THEY GOT SEPARATED SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE...
HIS BROTHER'S NAME IS SOICHI.
WHAT DID HE PRAY FOR?
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS OLDER TWIN BROTHER.
HMM, LET'S SEE...
DO WE HAVE ANY CLUES?


SOMEONE WHO HAS THIS GUY'S FACE...
peek
THIS GUY LOOKED AT ME JUST NOW!
HE LOOKED AT ME!
BUT THERE AREN'T THAT MANY HUMANS WHO CAN SEE GODS AND YOKAI...
HE REALLY LOOKED AT ME, HE PEEKED!
I'M NOT!
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST MISTAKEN?

EH?
AH, IT'S SOICHI.
HOW DARE YOU TRICK ME!
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TRICKED ME!
CHOMP CHOMP
STOP BITING HIM, AZUKI
SO YOU REALLY CAN SEE ME!!
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
CHOMP

I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT'S SAFEST TO PRETEND NOT TO SEE ANYTHING...
I'M AZUKI
I'M VLAD
I'M SORRY ABOUT A WHILE AGO.
MY NAME IS KOICHI
I FIND GODS SCARIER THAN YOKAI.
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOKAI ARE MORE LIKELY TO TARGET HUMANS WHO CAN SEE THEM...
BUT VLAD IS A GOD, SO WHY?
IF ONE WERE TO INCUR THEIR WRATH, EVEN UNINTENTIONALLY,
YOU WOULD GET AN EVEN WORSE REPERCUSSION THAN WHAT ANY YOKAI CAN CAUSE.
THAT'S WHY... UM...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME TO THIS SHRINE TO WISH FOR SOMETHING!
chomp chomp
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! I JUST CAME HERE FOR GOOD LUCK!
WAIT A MINUTE
PLEASE LET ME GO HOME NOW
bow
BUT CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BROTHER?
I CANNOT PROMISE YOU THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO GRANT YOUR WISH,
THE TRUTH IS, I AM SOICHI.
MY NAME IS NOT KOICHI.
MY OLDER TWIN BROTHER WAS CALLED KOICHI.
.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

THIRTY YEARS AGO...
MY BROTHER AND I SWITCHED PLACES.
UM, MOM, WHAT IS THAT?
SHH! STOP SAYING WEIRD THINGS
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE BEEN SEEING STRANGE THINGS.
MY PARENTS NEVER BELIEVED ME WHEN I TOLD THEM, BUT...
SOICHI!
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER DID YOU SEE THIS TIME?
DRAW IT!
ONLY MY OLDER TWIN BROTHER, KOICHI, BELIEVED EVERY WORD I SAID, EVEN THOUGH HE COULDN'T SEE THEM.
THAT'S SO COOL!
I WISH I COULD SEE THEM, TOO

ONE DAY, TWO MEN WHO HEARD RUMORS ABOUT MY ABILITY CAME TO OUR HOUSE.
THEY WANTED TO TAKE ME WITH THEM FOR MY ABILITY TO SEE YOKAI
AND WERE WILLING TO PAY A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.
GOOD AFTERNOON.
WE HEARD YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO CAN SEE STRANGE THINGS.

BESIDES...

AT THAT TIME MY FATHER WAS SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE ILLNESS
MY MOTHER, SICKLY HERSELF, COULDN'T POSSIBLY SUPPORT A FAMILY OF FOUR ON HER OWN.

ME, WHO SAID NOTHING BUT STRANGE THINGS.
MY PARENTS WANTED TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
AFTER THAT,
TO SEND ME AWAY...
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THEM TO DECIDE
THEN I'LL GO FOR YOU!
SOICHI, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO?
I CRIED,
AND CRIED,
I COULD ONLY CRY...
MM
DON'T WORRY!
YOU CAN'T, THEY'LL FIND OUT

I'LL BE OKAY WHEREVER I GO!
THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY!!!
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM...
I DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO STOP HIM
I WAS SO STUPID
IF HE'S HAPPY.
I WANT TO KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE,
I WANT TO SEE HIS FACE.
NII-SAN...
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN

IT ISN'T A COINCIDENCE THAT I MOVED TO THIS TOWN.
SO YOU HAVE FOUND SOMETHING?
LET'S TRY ASKING THE YOKAI
YEAH
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHICH HOUSE...
IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS, BUT
I WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT THAT THE HOUSE WHERE MY BROTHER WAS TAKEN IS IN THIS TOWN.
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO HELP ME?
YOU WENT TO THE SHRINE AND WISHED FOR IT, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY THING I DID!
WE'LL BE EXPECTING A LOT OF OFFERINGS FROM YOU AFTER THIS
AZUKI!

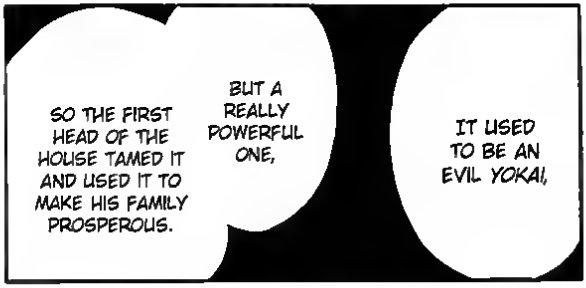
I USED TO FEAR GODS LIKE YOU DO
BUT NOW, I REALIZED THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I FEEL.
IT'S UNUSUAL TO MEET A GOD LIKE YOU.
THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...
IT'S THE SAME WITH HUMANS, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU DON'T MEET SOMEONE AND TALK WITH THEM,
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS.
THERE ARE A LOT OF MAGNIFICENT GODS OUT THERE.
SO MAGNIFICENT, I CAN'T EVEN COMPARE MYSELF TO THEM

HAVE YOU SEEN A HUMAN THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THIS MAN?
DUNNO...
NO, I HAVEN'T
WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE
I'M NOT SURE
YES, I DID JUST NOW
REALLY ?!
LOOK, OVER THERE
BUT THAT'S A GIRL
DAD?

run
I'M SORRY!
EH?!
IS... IS YOUR FATHER'S NAME SOICHI...?
AH!
LISTEN TO ME
WAIT
IF YOUR FATHER'S NAME IS SOICHI
HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER !!
SLAM

I CAN'T TALK ABOUT MY FATHER TO OTHER PEOPLE
WHAT ?!
I'M HIS YOUNGER BROTHER !!
I'M NOT A STRAN-GER!!
LET'S GO FIND YOUR BROTHER.
AZUKI, WE'LL GO IN FROM ABOVE
GOT IT!
YOU CANNOT ENTER !!!

IS THAT ...?
WHAT THE HECK


SO THE FIRST HEAD OF THE HOUSE TAMED IT AND USED IT TO MAKE HIS FAMILY PROSPEROUS.
BUT A REALLY POWERFUL ONE,
IT USED TO BE AN EVIL YOKAI,

I WOULDN'T GO NEAR THAT PLACE IF I WERE YOU.
THAT'S THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF THAT HOUSE

THEY WOULD TAKE SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE YOKAI AND KEEP HIM INSIDE THE HOUSE TOGETHER WITH THE DEITY.
WHEN THE FIRST HEAD DIED, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE DEITY FROM DISAPPEARING,

M...
MY BROTHER, WITH THAT MONSTER...?
HE CAN'T EVEN SEE THEM...
OPEN THIS DOOR!!
LET ME SEE MY BROTHER !!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM ALL THIS TIME
PLEASE!
IF I CAN'T SEE HIM, AT LEAST LET ME HEAR HIS VOICE!!
HE'S MY ONLY BROTHER...

MY FATHER IS DEAD
FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS NOW...

EH?
ANYTHING THAT BELONGED TO THE DECEASED KEEPER OF THE DEITY IS DISPOSED OF
IN ORDER TO LOSE HIS ATTACHMENTS TO THE DEITY.
DID... DID HE LEAVE ANYTHING
LIKE A LETTER, OR A DIARY?
THEY WERE ALL BURNED.
Y... YOU'RE LYING...
IT'S THE TRUTH.

IN THIS PLACE...
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF MY FATHER
THERE IS.
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU?
CAN I SEE YOU?
I WANT TO SEE THE FACE OF MY NIECE.

click
UNCLE...

EH? WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS IS BAD, KOICHI! IT'S MISTAKING YOU FOR YOUR BROTHER!
BURST
SOICHI !!!
KYA-!
RUN!!!

SOICHI !!!
GUH-!
IT'S TOO BIG, I CAN'T HOLD IT BACK
OH NO
SOICHI !!!
SOICHI
SOICHI
SOICHI

KEPT INSIDE THAT MANSION...
WITHOUT EVER HAVING A CHANCE TO GET OUT...
WAS MY BROTHER ALWAYS WITH THAT MONSTER?
I'M SORRY...
NII-SAN...
I'M SORRY...
HE MUST'VE HAD A PAINFUL LIFE
KYAAA
!?
I WAS THE ONE WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN IN THAT MANSION, WHO SHOULD'VE DIED THERE...

LOOK !!!
IT'S YOUR DAUGHTER MOMIJI!!!
IT'S YOUR DAUGHTER !!
LET HER GO!!
ITS SKIN IS TOO THICK
COME OUT!
SHOW YOUR-SELF!

KYAAA
COME OUT SOICHI!!!
STOP IT...
rustle..
S...
NII-SAN...
I'LL BE THERE SOON.
SOICHI-!

YOU'RE ALIVE...
YOU'RE ALIVE...
SOICHI...

YOU...
NII -SAN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ANY-MORE...

DON'T WORRY!
I'LL BE OKAY WHEREVER I GO!
YOU WERE RIGHT...

THAT'S GREAT, MOMIJI... YOUR FATHER IS BACK HOME
THAT'S GREAT...
I'M GLAD...

NII-SAN, YOU'RE VERY MUCH LOVED WHEREVER YOU GO...

UNCLE...? WHAT JUST HAPPENED ...?
IT'S OKAY.
THE GUARDIAN DEITY IS PROTECTING US

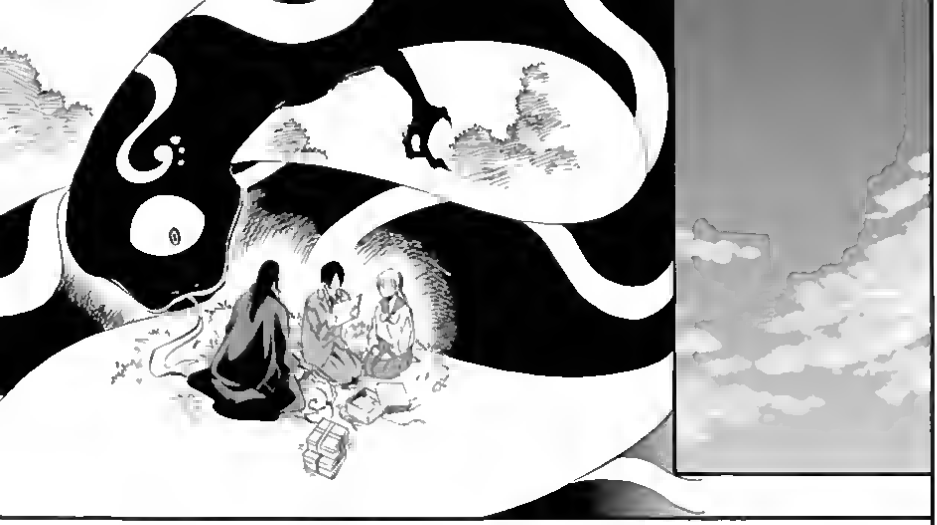
PLEASE LET ME TALK TO IT.

KOICHI...
I'M FINE.

SOICHI IS MY OLDER BROTHER.
MY NAME IS KOICHI

I'M SORRY, BUT
I AM NOT SOICHI.

ghoke
THEN SOICHI IS...
HE'S NO LONGER HERE...
I SEE...
THAT'S SAD
SO SAD
WHAT ARE THESE?
THEY'RE LETTERS
SOICHI ASKED ME TO GIVE THEM TO HIS BROTHER
IF HE CAME TO SEE HIM.



I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL.
DEAR BROTHER,

DEAR BROTHER,
YESTERDAY, I TRIED WRITING A LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN DEITY.
AND I ACTUALLY GOT A REPLY FROM IT.
EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE IT, I'M SURE I CAN GET ALONG WITH IT.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE IN THIS HOUSE.
I TOLD YOU I CAN MAKE IT WORK I'M GREAT, RIGHT?
I WAS ABLE TO TRICK THEM INTO BELIEVING I'M REALLY YOU.
I KNOW, BECAUSE I ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR STORIES.

I FINALLY GOT MARRIED
MY WIFE IS SO BEAUTIFUL, I WISH YOU COULD MEET HER.
DEAR BROTHER, I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL.
TODAY, MY BABY GIRL WAS BORN.
I'M A FATHER NOW.
DEAR BROTHER, SPRING HAS COME AGAIN.
IF YOU'RE HAPPY, THEN THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY, TOO.
ARE YOU ALSO HAPPY RIGHT NOW?
I'M HAVING THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.
I'M VERY HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
DEAR BROTHER, I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL.

LATELY, I'M ABLE TO SEE THE THINGS THAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT
I CAN ALSO SEE THE GUARDIAN DEITY NOW.
DEAR BROTHER, IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD. WE'RE HAVING OUR FIRST SNOW OF THE YEAR HERE.
IT REALLY IS BETTER BEING ABLE TO TALK TO EACH OTHER PERSONALLY.
THOUGH I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS.
IF THIS LETTER SOMEHOW REACHES YOU,
CAN YOU GRANT MY ONE REQUEST?

NO LONGER WANTS TO BE BOUND HERE
THE GUARDIAN DEITY
MY FRIEND WHO HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME IN MY LIFE IN THIS MANSION
BUT IT SEEMS THAT ONLY A GOD CAN BREAK THE SPELL BINDING IT.

IS THIS...
REALLY FOR THE BEST...?
WHAT IF SOME KIND OF MISFORTUNE HAPPENS TO THIS FAMILY AFTER THIS...?
THAT'S UP TO YOU HUMANS.
WHAT YOU CALL FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE
ARE ESSENTIALLY THINGS YOU DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES...

BUT IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF IN A HOPELESS SITUATION,
JUST KEEP IN MIND
THAT YOU CAN RELY ON ME AGAIN .
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE WAITING.

ch.14 - end -

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT A CARP THAT SWIMS UP A WATERFALL BECOMES A DRAGON.
IN OTHER WORDS, A CARP IS ALSO A DRAGON.
AND THAT'S WHY I LOOK LIKE A CARP.
NAH, YOU LOOK MORE LIKE A GOLDFISH
STOP THAT! GET YOUR PAWS OFF MY BOWL!
LET ME OUT—!!

Koichi♡
WHEN I GOT BACK HOME,
THE GUARDIAN DEITY WAS THERE, FILLING UP THE WHOLE APARTMENT.
ARE YOU HAPPY?
YEAH!
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR